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U.S. Refuses to Extradite Czech General

The United States announced yesterday it has turned down Czechoslovakia's request to extradite Maj. Gen. Jan Sejna and that he has been granted permanent residence, the status necessary to seek U.S. citizenship.

It also was learned that Sejna, one of the highest-ranking Communists ever to defect to the West, has been living in nearby Virginia under Central Intelligence Agency protection ever since he fled to the United States last February.

Sejna, 41, was accompanied in his flight by his teen-age son and a friend, Miss Evzenie Musilova, described as being in her early 20s. The younger Sejna and Miss Musilova also have been granted permanent residence in the United States.

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said that, while the Czech Embassy here at no time asked to see Sejna, Czech officials did request to see the son and Miss Musilova.

The son and Miss Musilova, according to McCloskey, "indicated that they did not wish to return to Czechoslovakia" — and the Czechs then did not request that they be extradited.

The Czech Government sought Sejna's return on charges that he had embezzled money through the sale of second-hand cars from Army surplus and by such matters as using soldiers to build a cottage.

Sejna was chief of the Communist Party Committee of the Czech Ministry of National Defense, a member of the Army General Staff and a member of the Presidium of the National Assembly.

At the time of his defection, a Prague trade union newspaper printed rumors that Sejna had fled with important military documents.

Sejna was known as a protege of Czechoslovakia's former President and pro-Soviet Communist Party boss Antonin Novotny. Sejna's flight took place just as Czechoslovakia's new progressive-minded party chief, Alexander Dubcek, was taking steps to make his country more independent of the Soviet Union.